

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Research Administration  
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine  
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PLANT-QUARANTINE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF CUBA

RESTRICTIONS GOVERNING THE IMPORTATION OF SEED POTATOES

Presidential Decree No. 235, published in the Official Gazette, March 6, 1947, revokes Decree No. 3495 which formerly regulated the importation of seed potatoes into Cuba.

Decree No. 235 permits the importation of potatoes for seed from Canada and the United States only.

The importation of the following varieties of potatoes is authorized for seed purposes at present: Red Bliss Triumph, Pontiac, White Bliss Triumph, Irish Cobbler, Green Mountain, Katahdin, Sebago, Houma, Earline, and Chippewa.

Importation of seed potatoes free from custom duties is permitted only for five months beginning September 1 and ending January 31 of the following year, in accordance with orders of the Minister of Agriculture, who is also authorized to fix the tolerance of potato diseases allowed in such importations.

Seed potatoes may be imported through the ports of Habana, Cardenas, Matanzas, Caibarien, Nuevitas, Gibara, and Santiago de Cuba.

Seed Potatoes in Cuba  
Ministry of Agriculture, Resolution No. 151  
Official Gazette No. 54, March 6, 1947

Authorized dates for importations of seed potatoes:

- (a) From September 1, from Louisiana and any other seed which on that date has been harvested more than 45 or less than 120 days at the place of production.

- (b) From September 15, seed potatoes from South and North Dakota and any other which are harvested at the place of production commencing usually between August 25 and September 1.
- (c) From October 1, seed potatoes grown in Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, or any other place where harvesting commences usually between September 1 and 15.
- (d) From October 15, seed potatoes grown in Prince Edward Island or any other place where harvesting commences usually between September 15 and October 1.

Applications for permits to import seed potatoes must be submitted to the Bureau of Grains and Tubers of the Ministry of Agriculture. Inspections of permitted importations will be made by the Division of Plant Sanitation.

Documents Required with Imports of Seed Potatoes

- I. (a) A copy, legalized by a Notary Public and visaed by a Cuban consul, of the certificate issued by the Government, State, or association of growers attached to an Agricultural College, specifying the percentages of diseases observed by the inspectors on their first and second field inspections, as well as those noted at the time of packing and loading. The number of days elapsed after harvest shall also be noted on the certificate.
  - (b) A copy of the invoice from place of origin giving the price at origin, transportation costs to the port of shipment, ocean freight and maritime insurance, the net weight of each container, and the name of the grower.
- II. In cases in which the above cannot be fulfilled, the following documents will be required:
- (a) A notarized copy of the certificate, visaed by a Cuban consul, issued by the shippers, specifying the selling price, transportation costs to the port of shipment, maritime freight and insurance charges, the number and initials of the car in which the shipment is made, the date thereof, the quantity, variety, date of harvest, name and address of the grower, number of the field, net weight of the contents of each container, classification of the seed or grade, percentages of diseases observed in the field where the seed potatoes were grown by inspectors duly authorized by the Government, State, or Association of Growers attached to an Agricultural College.

- (b) In lieu of the documents of subsection (a) above, they shall attach a certificate, duly legalized by a Notary Public, and visaed by a Cuban consul, of inspection and origin, issued by the proper organization of the Department of Agriculture in which the following particulars shall be given:

Name of the shipper  
Name of the consignee  
Sales price  
Transportation costs to the port of shipment  
Maritime freight and insurance charges  
Name of the inspector  
Quantity of the packages  
District or place and province where grown

- (c) A certified copy of the percentages of diseases observed by inspectors, as required in (a) and (b) above, must be presented to the Bureau of Grains and Tubers by the importer within 60 days following the importation of seed potatoes, unless the information has been received by the Ministry of Agriculture prior to the expiration of the 60 days allowed.

Tolerances Admitted for Clearance through Customs

All seed potatoes will be inspected on arrival in Cuba, and the quality and percentage of diseases present corresponding to the grade and size specified on the tags attached to the containers must agree with those stated. In no event may seed potatoes be cleared as such unless the following requisites are fulfilled:

- (a) Certified seed potatoes in every container must be of the same variety, well shaped, free from damage due to freezing, black heart, blight, soft rot and wet break-down, foreign matter, hollow heart, sunburn, second growth, internal discoloration, bruises, shriveling, sprouting, scab, dry rot, rhizoctonia or other diseases, borers or other insects, or mechanical means.

Unless otherwise specified on the tags, not more than 5% of the potatoes may be under 1 7/8 inches in diameter or of any other specified minimum size.

- (b) Not more than 20% of the potatoes in each container may be under the requirements for the grade indicated on the tags attached, and not more than 5% may be seriously damaged by hollow heart, sunburn, or internal discoloration, nor more than 6% may be under the other requisites. In addition the percentages of the following specific defects and diseases may not be greater than those indicated.





	<u>Per Cent</u>
Soft rot for any cause	1
Damage due to early blight ( <u>Alternaria solani</u> )	3
" " " late " ( <u>Phytophthora infestans</u> )	3
" " " fusarium rot	5
Internal necrosis	5
Hollow tuber	1
Ring rot	0
Damage caused by common scab ( <u>Actinomyces scabies</u> )	4
Damage due to rhizoctonia ( <u>Rhizoctonia solani</u> )	5
Black leg ( <u>Bacillus phytophthorus</u> )	1
Potato wart ( <u>Synchytrium endobioticum</u> )	0
Leak ( <u>Pythium debaryanum</u> )	2
Damage due to mechanical means	15

- (c) Sprouts up to 3/4 inch long are permitted in not more than 10% of the tubers, provided they are not damaged by shriveling, and if other defects do not reach 20%, the balance may be applied to potatoes with sprouts up to 3/4 inch if they are not seriously damaged by shriveling.

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Chief, Bureau of Entomology and Plant  
Quarantine